

REMARKS

Independent claim 1 stand rejected on the basis of Sultanian '092, and independent claim 17 stands rejected on the basis of '092 and Wahl '587. In the examiner's response to applicants' previous arguments, the examiner asserts that "interlocking" includes mere "hooking," notwithstanding the requirement in the definition provided by the examiner that interlocked parts "unite" or "join." Applicants submit that the claim as previously presented, which recites "interlocking," avoids the cited references.

The examiner also asserts that,

structure that shows the laminations form the hinge and do not require a third piece to create a hinge is required to overcome the present rejection.

In an effort to expedite prosecution, without narrowing the scope of the claims, independent claims 1 and 17 now recite that the moving piece laminations and stationary piece laminations are directly interlocked, without a tail bracket. Support for this amendment can be found, for example, on page 6, lines 16-19, and in various drawings. Applicants traverse these rejections for the reasons previously given. Since the claims now clearly recite that a third piece is not required to create the hinge, and that the laminations are directly interlocked, applicants request reconsideration and allowance of this application.

The examiner should call applicants' attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By



Patrick G. Burns
Registration No. 29,367

April 13, 2004

300 South Wacker Drive
Suite 2500
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Telephone: 312.360.0080
Facsimile: 312.360.9315